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COMPLIANCE WITH ARMS LIMITATION AND DISARMAMENT OBLIGATIONS

Note verbale dated 22 June 1995 from the Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to inform him that on 25 May 1995, in a solemn ceremony, the instrument of accession of the Republic of Chile to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was deposited with the representatives of the Government of the United States of America, in the latter's capacity as depositary of the Treaty.

Chile's accession to this Treaty is the natural culmination of a long series of efforts in the field of nuclear non-proliferation and occurred just days after the conclusion of the Review and Extension Conference of States Parties to the Treaty. This decision was preceded by Chile's involvement in the development of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) and its full accession to that Treaty.

In acceding to the non-proliferation Treaty, Chile endorsed the documents produced during the Review and Extension Conference, trusting that the final decisions, particularly the decision setting out the principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, would be respected by all States. In that connection, Chile now notes with concern the announcement of the resumption of nuclear explosions by Powers possessing military nuclear technology, which could lead to a real escalation in testing in various parts of the world.

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Previously, the Government of Chile expressed its objections to the detonation of a nuclear device by the People's Republic of China on 15 May 1995, on the ground that it went against the spirit, principles and objectives of non-proliferation which had emerged at the Review and Extension Conference. At that Conference, the international community - including the Government of the People's Republic of China - adopted by consensus a call to conclude negotiations on a comprehensive nuclear test-ban treaty by 1996 at the latest. Until such a treaty comes into force, it is felt that the nuclear Powers should exercise the utmost restraint with respect to such tests.

In the same context, the Government of Chile has also objected to France's decision, announced on 14 June 1995, to resume nuclear testing for a limited period in the Muroroa Atoll in the South Pacific.

The Government of Chile, reaffirming a fundamental and permanent principle of its foreign policy, made an urgent appeal to the French Government to reconsider its decision, in the interests of the international community's commitment in matters of disarmament and global security.

The Permanent Mission of Chile would be grateful if the Secretary-General would arrange for the present note to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 57 of the preliminary list.